

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed July 14, 2004. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goertz, et al. ("Goertz," U.S. Pat. No. 6,173,295) in view of Nevarez, et al. ("Nevarez," U.S. Pat. No. 6,189,103).

As is noted above, each of claims 1-22 has been cancelled in favor of new claims 23-56. In view of that cancellation, Applicant submits that the rejection is moot and, therefore, should be withdrawn. Applicant reserves the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

Regarding new claims 23-56, Applicant respectfully submits that these new claims describe an invention novel and unobvious in view of the prior art of record and, therefore, respectfully requests that these claims be held to be allowable. For example, in relation to claim 23, Goertz and Nevarez do not teach or suggest a method for completing jobs, comprising receiving a job request that includes content and data describing how the job is to be completed; storing the content as one or more files; creating a job ticket associated with the content using the data describing how the job is to be completed, the job ticket describing various tasks that must be completed to complete the job; storing the job ticket; assigning a processor to complete one or more of the tasks of the job; and enabling the processor to access a portion of the job ticket associated with the one or more tasks and to access a portion of the stored content

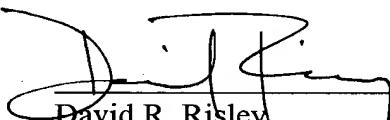
upon which the one or more tasks are to be performed, such that the processor can complete the tasks to which the processor has been assigned.

Furthermore, in relation to claim 44, Goertz and Nevarez do not teach or suggest a service center that receives job requests from clients, the service center comprising a job store that stores content of jobs that are to be completed and provides access to the content; a job ticket service that stores job tickets that describe how the jobs are to be completed and provides access to the job tickets, the job tickets comprising one or more branches that are associated with one or more tasks that must be completed to complete the jobs, the job tickets being associated with the stored content; and a workflow controller that creates job tickets and assigns processors to complete the one or more tasks of the jobs based upon the processors' ability and availability to complete the one or more tasks; wherein more than one assigned processor may complete a task of a given job such that multiple processors can be used to complete the same job.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on

9-22-04

Mary M. Hogan
Signature